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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/571,296

11/14/2006

Haruo Yamashita

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EXAMINER

LEIBY, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2629

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/04/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/571,296	Applicant(s) YAMASHITA ET AL.	
	Examiner CHRISTOPHER E. LEIBY	Art Unit 2629	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 09 March 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Detailed Action

1. **Claims 1-8** are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claims 1-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Hansen** (US Patent 6,069,597).

Regarding **independent claims 1, 6, and 7**, Hansen discloses a visual processing device, method (*abstract*), program (*wherein figure 9 discloses hardware a program is inherent to make the hardware work*), and semiconductor device (*abstract and figure 9 which comprises semiconductors*) comprising: parameter output unit operable to output a luminance adjustment parameter based on a parameter expressing the ambient light (*figure 9 reference ambient light sensor 580 measuring ambient light 620 and outputting that measurement to the comparison circuit 590*); and transformation unit operable to transform a luminance of a target pixel based on the luminance adjustment parameter that is output by the parameter output unit (*figure 9 reference 300 which uses PWM to modify pixels, target pixels, with an adjusted luminance value and columns 13 and 14 lines 46-67 and 1-65*), a luminance of the target pixel to be subjected to visual processing, and a luminance of surrounding pixels positioned

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in an area around the target pixel (*abstract reference visual processor FET which uses a brightness control circuit 300 shown in figure 9 which uses PWM to modify pixels, target pixels, with an adjusted luminance value and columns 13 and 14 lines 46-67 and 1-65*).

Regarding **claim 2**, Hansen discloses a visual processing device, wherein the parameter output unit operable to output the luminance adjustment parameter based on the parameter expressing the ambient light and an outside parameter that is input from an outside portion (*figure 9 reference 590, 580, and 620 along with the operation description disclosed in column 14 lines 39-53 wherein the ambient light sensor can measure a parameter of outside ambient light and output that to the comparison unit which can output to the brightness control circuitry*).

Regarding **claim 3**, Hansen discloses a visual processing device, wherein the operation of the parameter output unit is switched according to a switch signal, between a first mode of outputting the luminance adjustment parameter based on the parameter expressing the ambient light and a second mode of outputting the luminance adjustment parameter based on the parameter expressing the ambient light and an outside parameter that is input from an outside portion (*figure 9 reference wherein switch 530 switches between outside parameters of measured ambient light to adjust the display, second mode, and a first mode of manual adjustment using a knob with a predefined parameter expressing the ambient light*).

Regarding **claim 4**, Hansen discloses a visual processing device, wherein the transformation unit performs a computation for enhancing a difference or a ratio between the luminance of the target pixel and the luminance of the

surrounding pixel (*figure 9 and columns 13 and 14 lines 46-67 and 1-65 wherein adjustment is done for an entire screen including a target pixel and its surrounding pixels via column drivers*).

Regarding **claim 5**, Hansen discloses a visual processing device, further comprising: a time change adjustment portion for controlling the change over time in the parameter expressing the ambient light or the luminance adjustment parameter (*figure 9 includes an ambient light sensor with measures ambient light the ambient light may or may not change over time depending on the environment but the ambient light sensor will still measure the change in ambient light overtime for adjustment to the brightness control circuitry*).

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTOPHER E. LEIBY whose telephone number is (571)270-3142. The examiner can normally be reached on 9 - 5 Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe can be reached on 571-272-7691. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CL

January 28th, 2009

/Richard Hjerpe/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2629